

Appl. No. 09/978,428
Amdt. dated Aug. 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 27, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method of separating cells in a centrifuge comprising:

providing a cell suspension in a processing bag connected via an outlet tube to a storage bag;

separating the cell suspension in the processing bag into fractions by centrifugation in a centrifuge, at least one such fraction being enriched with specific cells;

opening a centrifuge valve associated with said tube so as to allow a flow of fluid therethrough;

transferring one of said fractions to a the storage bag via an the outlet tube;

separating more dense cells from said fraction through at least one cell trap enlargement connected to said outlet tube;

~~adapting said outlet tube in a position having a radially inwardly directed flow and having a centrifuge valve associated therewith;~~

whereby said processing bag, said storage bag, said outlet tube and said centrifuge valve are all disposed in the rotating part of the centrifuge during centrifugation. ; and

~~whereby said step of transferring said fraction through said outlet tube occurs upon activation of said centrifuge valve into open position during centrifugation.~~

Claim 2 (Previously Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said cell suspension includes a buffy coat and said enriched fraction is a light-weight fraction enriched with platelets.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 in which the transferring of said fraction via said outlet tube includes flowing through said valve and through a radially positioned portion of said outlet tube having a radially outwardly directed flow.

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Claim 7 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said cells are platelets or stem cells.

Claim 8 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said cells are red blood cells.

Claim 9 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said valve is a manually activatable clamp.

Claim 10 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said valve is a magnetically activatable valve.

Claim 11 (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which said valve is an electromagnetically activatable valve.

Claims 12-20 (Previously Cancelled).

Claim 21 (New) A method of separating cells in a centrifuge comprising:

providing a cell suspension in a processing bag connected via an outlet tube to a storage bag;

adapting said outlet tube in a position having a radially inwardly directed flow and having a centrifuge valve associated therewith;

separating the cell suspension in the processing bag into fractions by centrifugation in a centrifuge, at least one such fraction being enriched with specific cells;

opening the centrifuge valve associated with said tube so as to allow a flow of fluid therethrough;

transferring one of said fractions to the storage bag via the outlet tube;

diverting said radial flow into a peripheral flow via a cell trap having an enlarged section for maintaining specific cells,

whereby said processing bag, said storage bag, said outlet tube and said centrifuge valve are all disposed in the rotating part of the centrifuge during centrifugation.